

## CHAPTER 38.

AN ACT allowing a longer time to compound on old Certificates, and making further regulations respecting the sale of vacant lands.

SEC. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, are omitted, as they applied to a class of cases existing before the passage of this law.

Certificates  
to lie three  
months, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That all certificates returned or to be returned in virtue of warrants or orders granted before the first day of March, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, shall lie in the office three months after the first day of July next; and all certificates returned upon warrants granted in virtue of the act\* to appropriate certain lands to the use of the officers and soldiers of this state, and for the sale of vacant lands, or hereafter to be granted, shall lie in the office six months after they shall be compounded on, after which times respectively grants may issue, without notice, as required by the act of last session.

\* See November, 1781, ch. 20.

Chain-carriers  
to be sworn, &c.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That no person shall act as a chain-carrier, unless he be first sworn or affirmed, faithfully, carefully and impartially, to carry the chain; which oath or affirmation any surveyor or sheriff may administer; and no surveyor shall execute any warrant from the land office, or the general or any county court, unless the chain-carrier be first qualified as aforesaid, and it is declared to be the duty of every surveyor, diligently to observe the conduct of chain-carriers, and to take care that they faithfully execute their duty.

SEC. 4. Relates to certificates in the hands of the late examiner.

New warrants  
may be granted,  
&c.

SEC. 9. *And be it enacted*, That where any special or common warrants shall not be executed, new warrants may be granted in lieu thereof, or they may be applied towards the composition on any certificate, and shall thereupon be entitled to patent of confirmation, but nothing herein shall be taken or construed to oblige or compel the owner or possessor to pay for surplus land, or in any manner to weaken the title of such owner, or to give any person except the owner, under the grant heretofore issued, a right to take up or obtain a grant for any such surplus.

Subpœnas  
may issue,  
&c.

SEC. 11. *And be it enacted*, That subpœnas may issue from the chancery, or from the general court of either shore, to summon parties to appear before the chancellor, to maintain or answer any caveat, or to require the attendance of any witnesses to give testimony on any caveat, provided there be not less than fifteen days on the western, and thirty days on the eastern shore, between the date of the subpœna and the day of the return thereof; and every sheriff shall obey such subpœna, and, on return thereof, attachment for contempt may issue out of the court issuing the subpœna, against any witness who